



State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Parlin Fork High Speed Internet Relay		
PROJECT LOCATION	NW 1/4, Section 4, Township 17 North, Range 16 West MDBM; Lat 39°21'49" N and Long 123°39'42" W	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Jeanette Pedersen, Forester II MEU Environmental Coordinator	PHONE	(707) 459-7452
ADDRESS	17501 North Highway 101 Willits, CA 95490		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is to install an integrated antenna/radio in a tree on a ridge to relay a high speed internet "link" from Cahto Peak to Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp Relay location off of Jackson Demonstration State Forest Road 234 then a relay to the Whiskey Springs tower and finally a relay to the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp. The Camp currently has a "dial up" internet connection and there are no other fiscally feasible alternatives for service that will support CAL FIRE's "intranet" connectivity requirements. The 14" X 16" integrated antenna/radio will be mounted to a predominant redwood tree. Electrical wire will run down the tree to a 3' X 3' enclosure for the system's batteries, to be located on a concrete pad on the ground near the base of the tree. This antenna/radio will be connected to a pre-existing electrical system located at the Whiskey Springs residences via a buried electrical line. A very narrow trench will be dug using handtools to bury the electrical line which will power the system. The trenching is proposed on variable slopes inclined at approximately 30 - 40%. It is proposed to install 15' X 15' security fencing that is 6' tall to surround the system. Clearance (30' or greater as necessary with a 100' shaded fuel break) of ground litter and vegetation (not trees) will be maintained around the system to minimize potential wildfire damage.

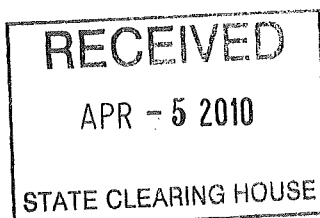
EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
Class 11 §15311 Accessory Structures
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The Accessory Structures Exemption allows for the construction of minor structures adjacent to institutional facilities and the Minor Alterations to Land Exemption allows for activities such as trenching. CAL FIRE staff have conducted a limited environmental review to ensure that no exceptions exist that would preclude the use of these exemptions. Watercourses or other sensitive conditions do not occur within the project area. The California Natural Diversity Database was consulted. The proposed activity will not result in the taking of a rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal. Due to the limited scope of this project, only minor ground disturbance will occur associated with installing fencing, battery housing, and defensible space brush clearance. Tree removal is not proposed. Within the project area of the proposed Parlin Fork Conservation Camp High-Speed Internet Relay project several historic-era archaeological features and a residential complex that appear to 50 years of age or older were identified within the project area. Avoidance mitigation measures have been included in the Archaeologist's report. This project will not have a significant effect on air, water, biological or cultural resources or result in significant emissions of greenhouse gases.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



William E. Snyder, Deputy Director
4/1/10
Date